



Implementation of ESHB 2082 Monthly Status Report For the Period of 8/01/11 to 8/31/11

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

[ESHB 2082](#) was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Gregoire on June 15, 2011. The new law:

- Terminates the Disability Lifeline program effective October 31, 2011.
- Establishes **three** new programs effective November 1, 2011:
 - **Aged, Blind, and Disabled cash assistance program**
To be eligible for **Aged, Blind, or Disabled cash assistance (ABD)**, a person must be age 65 or older, blind, or have a long-term medical condition that is likely to meet federal disability criteria. Clients receiving medical based on age, blindness or disability will be notified that they are eligible and will be approved for the new ABD program effective November 1, 2011. The ABD program will provide a monthly cash grant (proposed at \$197 maximum a month).
 - **Pregnant Women Assistance program**
The **Pregnant Women Assistance** program is for pregnant women who meet TANF income and resource standards and are ineligible for TANF for reasons other than failing to comply with TANF requirements. The majority of women on this program are women who have reached the 60-month time limit for receiving TANF assistance. Clients receiving DL based on pregnancy will be notified that they are eligible and will be approved for the Pregnant Women Assistance program effective November 1, 2011. The Pregnant Women Assistance program will provide a monthly cash grant (proposed at \$197 maximum a month).
 - **Housing and Essential Needs**
Housing and Essential Needs may be available from local housing and essential needs providers to clients receiving Medical Care Services (MCS). The Housing and Essential Needs program may provide assistance with rent and utility payments, personal health and hygiene items, cleaning supplies and transportation (e.g., bus passes). It should be noted that recipients are not entitled to assistance, which is dependent on available funding and services. Recipients of ADATSA or ABD assistance who are receiving MCS will not be eligible for Housing and Essential Needs assistance.
- **Medical assistance eligibility and coverage** will not be affected by the termination of the Disability Lifeline program. There will be no changes in mental health or any other health services offered on November 1, 2011. Medical Care Services and Medicaid coverage will continue unchanged.

KEY IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2011 (With Projected Dates)

- The Health Care Authority (HCA) is planning to release its proposed WACs regarding Medical Care Services by September 12, 2011 for public review and comment. Comments are due to Kevin Sullivan. For copies of the WACs, send an e-mail request to 2082@dshs.wa.gov or contact Kevin Sullivan with the Health Care Authority at 360-725-1344 or Kevin.Sullivan@hca.wa.gov.
- DSHS will send informational pamphlets to all recipients of the Disability Lifeline program informing them about the changes in the program (September 2011).
- Housing and Essential Needs award letters to grantees (September 1, 2011).
- The second round of Community Stakeholder meetings regarding ESHB 2082 and ESSB 5921 implementation will be held in Spokane, Yakima, Wenatchee, Pasco, Tacoma, Seattle, Vancouver, Poulsbo and Everett (September 20 – 30, 2011). The meeting schedule is listed at the bottom of this report.
- Housing and Essential Needs program will be set up in the Homeless Management Information System (September 30, 2011).



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PROGRAM UPDATES

Have grantees been selected in each of the 39 counties to operate the Housing and Essential Needs services?

Applications were due to the Department of Commerce (Commerce) by August 22, 2011. Information about the grantees will be available mid to late September. DSHS is working with Commerce to ensure that potentially eligible clients are aware of the services and how to obtain them.

Where can I find additional information about the Housing and Essential Needs grants and the grantees?

Visit the Department of Commerce: Housing and Essential Needs Grant website at: www.commerce.wa.gov/hen

What information will clients need to show in order to apply for and see if they are eligible for Housing and Essential Needs services?

DSHS is working with Commerce to tailor access to the web-based verification system (Benefits Verification System), so that Housing and Essential Needs grantees can confirm a client's eligibility for possible rent and essential needs assistance. Once eligibility is confirmed, a client may receive assistance for housing support and/or utility assistance based on their risk of homelessness. If a client is currently homeless, they may receive assistance in obtaining a rental unit. All clients are eligible for any available Essential Needs assistance. Essential needs assistance may include: personal health and hygiene items, cleaning supplies and transportation (such as bus passes).

Can clients apply for Housing and Essential Needs Services prior to November 1, 2011?

Housing and Essential Needs grantees cannot issue rent, utility or essential needs assistance prior to November 1, 2011. However, clients may contact the local Housing and Essential Needs grantees / providers to learn about how intake and assessment will be conducted in their community. Information about the grantees and providers will be available mid to late September.

Will there be proposed changes to the Washington Administrative Codes (WACs)?

Yes. DSHS filed a "CR 101 – Preproposal Statement of Inquiry" on July 20, 2011 as [WSR 11-15-104](#). DSHS is proposing to adopt new rules regarding the Aged, Blind and Disabled program and the Pregnant Women Assistance Program and amend and repeal existing rules that reference the Disability Lifeline program. DSHS posted the proposed draft rules for public comment from August 1 – 12, 2011 and appreciate everyone who provided feedback and suggestions.

HCA filed a "CR 101 – Preproposal Statement of Inquiry" on August 3, 2011 as [WSR 11-16-104](#). HCA is proposing to adopt new rules regarding the Medical Care Services program. For copies of the WACs, send an e-mail request to 2082@dshs.wa.gov or contact Kevin Sullivan with the Health Care Authority at 360-725-1344 or Kevin.Sullivan@hca.wa.gov.

To receive copies of HCA and DSHS's CR 102 – Proposed Rule Making Order regarding the implementation of ESHB 2082, send an e-mail request to 2082@dshs.wa.gov. For Economic Services Administration, DSHS rules, you can sign-up for the Policy Review List-Serve to receive e-mail notices of all proposed rule changes from ESA. To sign-up for the ESA list-serve, [follow this link](#) and enter your name and e-mail address. This is one phase of the regular rule-making process. Every rule change will have a [scheduled hearing](#) where formal comments are received in writing or through testimony. People can provide comments as part of the hearing process and they can also provide comments during the review process (prior to the hearing).

Is there going to be new process for determining disability and incapacity?

DSHS and the HCA are developing new processes for determining disability and incapacity for the ABD cash and MCS medical programs. For further information about this process or if you have any questions, please contact 2082@dshs.wa.gov.

Will there be a Wait List for Medical Care Services as required under ESHB 2082?

HCA and DSHS are developing potential criteria to implement a wait list for Medical Care Service if expenditures exceed appropriated fund. Details and proposed draft WACs to come.



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COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The second round of community meetings will take place during the period September 20 – 30, 2011. These meetings will provide us an opportunity to discuss changes to Washington's Disability Lifeline program that are required by Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2082. The meetings will also focus on Washington's WorkFirst program and the changes required by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5921.

We welcome you to attend any of the nine community and stakeholder meetings that are listed below. These interactive sessions will provide an important opportunity for us to share information about implementation and information we have on how these changes could impact your community. We welcome your feedback and ideas at these meetings.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday September 20, 2011	2:00pm-4:00pm	Douglas County PUD 1151 Valley Mall Parkway East Wenatchee, WA 98802 Wenatchee Auditorium HQ/South Main Entrance on lower level
Wednesday September 21, 2011	9:00am-11:00am	Yakima Dept. of Social & Health Services 1002 N 16th Ave Yakima, WA 98909 2nd FL, Conference Room 5
Thursday September 22, 2011	9:00am-11:00am	Kennewick Community Services Office 1120 N. Edison Ave Kennewick, WA 99336 Kennewick Conference Room
Friday September 23, 2011	2:00pm-4:00pm	Spokane Community Services Office 8517 E Trent Ave. Spokane Valley, WA 99212 Reg 1. Training Center, 2nd FL – Kalispel RM
Monday September 26, 2011	9:00am-11:00am	Tacoma Division of Child Support Centennial II Building 2121 S. State St. Tacoma, WA 98405 4th FL, Conference Room 405
Tuesday September 27, 2011	9:00am-11:00am	City of Poulsbo 200 NE Moe Street Poulsbo, WA 98370-7347
Wednesday September 28, 2011	9:00am-11:00am	Rainier Community Services Office 3600 South Graham Street Seattle, WA 98118 – Graham Conf. Room
Thursday September 29, 2011	9:00am-11:00am	Everett Community Services Office 840 N. Broadway Everett, WA 98201 Conference Room 103
Friday September 30, 2011	9:00am-11:00am	Vancouver – Division of Child Support (DCS) 5411 E. Mill Plain Blvd. Bldg. #3 Vancouver, WA 98661 Training/Meeting Room

Please email any questions and feedback to: 2082@dshs.wa.gov